

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1-36 and 105-162 are in this application. Claims 37-104 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 16, and 28 have been amended for clarity purposes, by deleting unnecessary language. New claims 105-162 have been added. New claims 105-113 are supported by claims 37-45 as filed. New claims 114 and 115 are supported by claims 81 and 85 as filed. New claims 116-162 are supported by claims 46-93 as filed. Therefore, the Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner requires a restriction under 35 USC § 121. Applicant elects Group I claims 1-36 to be examined, together with new claims 105-162 which have been made directly or indirectly dependent on some of claims 1-36. Accordingly, reconsideration and examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the merits of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on January 30, 2004. The first three pages of the IDS are enclosed to the present response, for the Examiner's ease of reference.

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In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that claims 1-36 and 105-162 are in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 2, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

Ross A. Schmitt

(Name of Person Depositing)

Ross A. Schmitt

Signature

2-2-04

Date

Respectfully submitted,

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